

Introduction:

1. What's the best-selling book in the United States? What's the best-selling book in the world? The Bible! In fact, if you were to look at a best-selling list for books, you probably wouldn't see it on there. That's because it's been number one for so long, it's a foregone conclusion that it will be at the top every single year. Despite this fact there's a problem. The problem is although many people own a Bible, almost no one reads it. And others who do read it will eventually put it down and ignore it.
2. There are a variety of reasons why people no longer study from God's word. Some say that it's no longer relevant in their lives. Others may say that it doesn't really matter whether we listen to it or not. And then there are some who say that it's too difficult to understand. While these answers are somewhat different, they all stem from one source.
3. They all come from the attitude we have when we pick up God's word. Whatever disposition we have before opening up this book will have a major impact upon how we view the words of God. So what attitude should we have when we study the Bible? The Holy Spirit has provided for us a Bible study which took place between the Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip (Acts 8:26-39). Through this study we are able to see the attitude we should have as we study the Bible. So let's look at the study that stopped the chariot. Let's see what type of attitude this man had.

The Lesson:

I. Learn the truth (Acts 8:30-31).

- A. The Eunuch had the passion to learn the truth.
 1. The Eunuch by all standards was a spiritual man. He travelled from Ethiopia to worship in Jerusalem (Acts 8:26-27). When Philip came to the Eunuch's chariot he saw him reading from the scriptures. Even though he had finished worshipping God, he still had his head in the book. This man should be commended for his interest and dedication studying from God's Word.
 2. But there's something else that deserves our attention as we look at this man. How he responded when Philip asked him the question: "Do you understand what you are reading?" He was willing to admit his ignorance of some scriptures. Some people would be offended if someone came up to them and asked this question. But not this man. He was honest and told him that he didn't understand what he was reading. He answered this way because he wanted to learn the truth.
- B. We must have the same desire and passion in wanting to learn the truth.
 1. We need to have our head in the book. Have you ever read a book before that you just couldn't put down? For some it may be the Harry Potter series. People will read 800 pages in a matter of days. For others it may be the Twilight series. For some strange reason women are fascinated with this story about wolves and vampires. While it's okay to read a variety of books, there's a bigger question we must ask ourselves.
 2. Do we have the same desire for the word of God? Are we passionate about learning the truth? Are we excited when we pick up the Bible because we are getting ready to hear from God Himself?
 - a. Are we intrigued about the epic journeys of the Israelites and the lessons we can learn from them?
 - b. Are we fascinated with the Genesis account of creation and all the facts it provides about how we got here?
 - c. Are we excited when we study the book of Acts to see how the Lord's church was able to prevail against every obstacle that has come against it?
 3. Are we captivated, mesmerized, and overwhelmed by the love and suffering of our Savior on the cross? Part of the reason we have been doing our Bible reading challenge is so we can remember these rich stories and historical events, which will draw us closer to God. But there's a question we all must ask ourselves. Why is it hard for some of us to read ten minutes a day in our Bibles? Is it because we simply don't have the desire (Psalm 1:1-2)?
 4. This is the attitude we must have: a desire to learn the truth. The Eunuch had it and because he did, it led to something else. This takes us to our second point.

II. Obey the truth (Acts 8:34-38).

- A. When the Eunuch learned the truth about Jesus, he decided to obey the truth.
 1. Philip began at the scripture where the Eunuch was reading from (Acts 8:32-34).
 2. From the same scripture Philip began to preach to him about Jesus Christ (Acts 8:35).
 3. He taught the Eunuch how Isaiah had prophesied about the suffering of Jesus, and His death on behalf of man's sins. We know this is what Philip taught him in their study because whenever someone taught about Jesus, this is what they taught: His death, burial, and resurrection. It was Peter who preached these facts on the day of Pentecost, at Solomon's porch, and to the first Gentile converts (Acts 2:22-38; Acts 3:14-18; Acts 10:34-41).
 4. Philip also taught the Eunuch about baptism. How do we know? Because the Eunuch told Philip that he wanted to be baptized (Acts 8:36). How did the Eunuch suddenly understand the necessity of baptism? Because Philip taught it to him when he shared the good news of Jesus Christ from the scriptures. You see, when you teach Jesus, you will also have to teach about baptism.

5. We see how the Eunuch's desire to know truth had now put him in a position of making a decision. Learning the truth will create a moment of decision in our life. God forces us to decide to obey or reject Him. There is no middle ground. The Eunuch decided to obey. We can't underestimate this man's decision. Although he was already religious, there was something more he needed to do. Because of his attitude towards the scriptures, the chariot was stopped, so he could obey God and be baptized. Shouldn't this put the nail in the coffin to those who attempt to negate the necessity of baptism? The Eunuch understood this was something he had to do. He was the one that said, "Stop! What's holding me back from being baptized?"
- B. Is this the attitude we have when we study God's word?
1. It's one thing to want to learn the truth. But this attitude can quickly change when we have to make a decision on what we learn. Far too often it is the case that many people become "almost a Christian." This is what happened with King Agrippa (Acts 25:22; Acts 26:1, 27-28). He had a desire to hear Paul, had an understanding of what Paul said, but when it came time to make a decision to obey the truth he couldn't do it. Sadly, this is the case with so many people.
 - a. People come to worship every week and learn from God's word, but are not willing to make the decision to follow God and never obey the gospel.
 - b. Some desire to follow Jesus, until they learn what it requires (Luke 9:23).
 - c. How many people believe in Christ, repent of their sins, have confessed their faith in Him, but still reject the teachings of Jesus to be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:28; Acts 22:16)?
 - d. We can all say amen to that, but what about us? How many Christians have a desire to study God's Word, until they are forced to make a decision in obeying the truth that will drastically alter their lives? We want to inherit eternal life, but after learning what that requires, we may walk away from Jesus (Luke 18:18-23).
 - e. We know God wants us to put Him first. But how many of us still allow the desire of gaining worldly possessions to take away our time which we should be giving to God? How many of us have learned the truth that God wants us to live a life of purity, but will still spend our hard earned money to watch a trashy movie?
 2. If we are going to be pleasing to God, we must learn and obey (James 1:25). This is not always easy. It certainly can be difficult at times. But when we do this we will receive blessings and benefits from God.

III. Rejoice in the truth (Acts 8:39).

- A. The Eunuch rejoiced in his decision to obey the truth. Why? Because he had been delivered from his sins. Because he knew he had been obedient to his heavenly Father. And because of future blessings to come.
- B. Do you remember when you were first baptized?
1. When you went to bed that night did you sleep better? The next day did you feel like you were walking on clouds? Did your future suddenly appear bright? What was that you were experiencing? It is the joy we receive through Jesus Christ.
 2. But the joy we experienced doesn't end there. It continues on. Through knowing that Jesus has made a home for us in heaven will give us joy (John 14:1-3). Because He promises us a new body one day gives us joy (Philippians 3:20-21). Understanding that He is with us no matter what provides joy for us. Knowing the physical and spiritual blessings He provides for us is reason to say "Thank you Lord!"
 3. While God has given us this joy, there is something I need to warn you about. Sometimes people are going to try to steal your joy. Often, when a new convert goes home after obeying the gospel, they are so thrilled. They decide to tell their family members. But instead of receiving kind words it is usually the opposite. Sometimes someone will say to them "Why did you join a church of Christ? They don't even have instrumental music. That will not be any fun at all."
 4. Don't ever allow anyone to steal your joy. The Eunuch rejoiced because he knew he was saved. We can experience the same thing when we learn and obey. That is a fact (Mark 16:16).

Conclusion:

1. The Eunuch left home lost in his sins, but went home a saint. You can do the same. You have heard the truth.
2. You have seen what is necessary for salvation through this study. Why not obey and rejoice in the salvation of Jesus?